

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Connecting device (1) for an electrosurgical instrument, ~~which that~~ comprises at least one gas supply line (5) and one power supply line (6), comprising characterized by  
a housing (2) ~~into out of~~ which passes ~~the a~~ gas supply line (5) with ~~the a~~ power supply line (6) disposed within the gas supply line therein;,  
a branching device (7) located in the housing (2), by way of which the power supply line (6) is diverted out of the gas supply line (5) in order to form respectively a gas-connection end piece (9) and a power-connection end piece (8); and a plug (4) to which the gas-connection end piece (9) and the power-connection end piece (8) are coupled, and which is fixed fastened to the housing (2) in order to make connection with a socket in an appliance or with connecting leads ~~running to the appliance~~; and  
~~wherein~~ a filter (10) is disposed within the housing (2) in the gas-connection end piece (9).
2. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the filter is exchangeable.
3. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to Claim 1, wherein one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the branching device (7) comprises defines a first aperture (11) into which the gas supply line (5) with the power supply line (6) disposed therein is inserted, like in the manner of a plug into a socket.
4. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to Claim 1, wherein one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the branching device (7) comprises defines a second aperture (12) into which the filter (10) is inserted, like in the manner of a plug into a socket.

5. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the branching device (7) comprises~~ defines an integrated cable channel (13) to accommodate the power supply line (6).
6. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to Claim 1, adapted for connection to a single use ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the electrosurgical instrument is designed for single use.~~
7. (Currently Amended) Application of a connecting device according to one of the preceding claims, for an An APC instrument comprising at least one gas supply line and one power supply line in combination with a connecting device comprising a housing out of which passes the gas supply line with the power supply line disposed within the gas supply line; a branching device located in the housing by way of which the power supply line is diverted out of the gas supply line in order to form respectively a gas-connection end piece and a power-connection end piece; a plug to which the gas-connection end piece and the power-connection end piece are coupled, and which is fastened to the housing (2) in order to make connection with connecting leads; and a filter disposed within the housing in the gas-connection end piece.
8. (Currently Amended) Application An APC instrument according to Claim 7, in the form of ~~characterized in that the APC instrument is an APC probe (3).~~